

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/506,462

Examiner

Edward J. Cain

Applicant(s)

AMIRZADEH-ASL, DJAMSCHID

Art Unit

1796

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment received 10/15/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 18,34 and 36.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 02/07/07
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

Edward J. Cain
Primary Examiner
Art Unit: 1796

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An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Claim 18 is amended as follows:

18. (currently amended) A process comprising coating a surface of finely divided inorganic solid particles with at least two different organic additives to form coated finely divided inorganic solids, wherein at least one of said additives is selected from the group consisting of a wetting agent, dispersing agent or deflocculating agent, wherein said finely divided inorganic solid particles are in the form of an aqueous suspension or in the form of a filter cake and the two different organic additives are coated on to the finely divided inorganic solid particles separately or in the form of a mixture, wherein the coated particles are dried to form coated finely divided inorganic solid particles and wherein the coated finely divided inorganic solid particles have a mean particle size d_{50} of from 0.001 to 20 μm , wherein the wetting, dispersing or deflocculating agent comprises at least one of the substances selected from the group consisting of an alkali metal salt of an organic acid, an ammonium salt of an organic acid, an alkali metal salt of an acrylate copolymer, an alkali metal salt of a methacrylate copolymer, a polyphosphate, a poly (meth)acrylate, a polyether, an anionically modified polyether, a fatty alcohol polyglycol ether, a modified polyurethanes and an anionically active aliphatic ester ~~added amount of wetting, dispersing or deflocculating agent is from 0.001 to 10 wt.%, based on the coated finely divided inorganic solid particles.~~

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Crawford on 10/18/07.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The closest prior art of record is Kerner et al and Mei et al. Neither of these references teach or fairly suggest the incorporation of the particular wetting agents as now required by the instant claims.

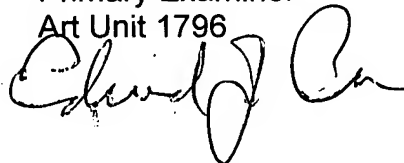
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Edward J. Cain whose telephone number is (571) 272-1118. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 10:00-6:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Wu can be reached on (571) 272-1114. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Edward J. Cain
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1796

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Edward J. Cain', is written over the printed name and title.